

**AMENDMENTS**

*In the Claims*

107. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

providing a plurality of sockets, wherein

each socket has an associated connection and an associated security token,

each associated connection is inbound relative to a relay program, and

the associated security token is provided by the associated connection;

receiving a first connection and a first security token at a relay program, wherein

the first connection is inbound relative to the relay program;

creating a socket associated with the first connection, wherein

the creating comprises associating the first security token with the first  
connection;

comparing the first security token with the associated security tokens; and

in response to said comparing,

if none of the associated security tokens match the first security token, including  
the socket in the plurality of sockets, and

if the first security token and a security token associated with one of the plurality  
of sockets match, coupling an end point of the first connection to an end  
point of a connection associated with the socket associated with the  
matching security token, wherein

a security token is a password, and

the connection associated with the socket is inbound relative to the relay  
program.

110. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 107 further comprising:

in response to said comparing, if none of the associated security tokens match the first  
security token,

upon a determination that the first connection is not to be associated with a  
socket, disconnecting the first connection.

111. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 107, wherein the coupling comprises: relaying a data stream between the first connection and the connection associated with the socket.

112. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 107, wherein the coupling comprises: creating a single connection comprising the first connection and the connection associated with the socket.

113. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 107 further comprising: decoupling the first connection and the connection associated with the socket from one another.

114. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 113, wherein the decoupling decouples the first connection and the connection associated with the socket upon one of failure and disconnect of one of the first connection and the connection associated with the socket.

115. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 107, wherein the first connection is transmitted through a first firewall program.

116. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 115, wherein the first connection is created by a protocol daemon.

117. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 116, wherein a second connection connects the protocol daemon to a first program, and the protocol daemon couples the first connection and the second connection to one another.

118. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 117, wherein the protocol daemon couples the first connection and the second connection to one another by virtue of the protocol daemon  
relaying a data stream between the first socket and the socket associated with the matching security token.

119. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 118, wherein  
the first program provides the first security token.

120. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:  
creating a first connection from a first program to a relay program, wherein  
the first connection is inbound to the relay program;  
receiving a first security token from the first program at the relay program, wherein  
the first security token is a password;  
providing the first security token to the relay program;  
creating a socket associated with the first connection, wherein  
the creating comprises associating the first security token with the first  
connection;  
comparing the first security token with one or more security tokens associated with one  
or more corresponding connections, wherein  
each one of the one or more corresponding connections is inbound to the relay  
program; and  
in response to said comparing,  
if the first security token and a security token associated with a corresponding  
connection match,  
coupling the second connection to the connection associated with the  
matching security token, and  
if none of the associated security tokens match the first security token,  
creating a second connection to the relay program, wherein  
the second connection is inbound to the relay program,  
upon successful creation of the second connection,  
including the second connection with said one or more  
corresponding connections, and  
coupling the first connection and the second connection to one  
another.

121. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 120, wherein  
the second connection is transmitted through a firewall program.

122. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 120 further comprising:  
relaying a data stream between the first connection and the second connection.

124. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 120 further comprising:  
terminating the first connection and the second connection.

126. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 120, wherein  
the connection associated with the matching security token is initiated by a second  
program.

127. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 120, wherein  
the relay program relays data between the second connection and the connection  
associated with the matching security token.

128. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 121, wherein  
a protocol daemon program performs  
the creating the first connection,  
the creating the second connection,  
the receiving the first security token from the first program,  
the providing the first security token to the relay program, and  
the coupling the first connection to the second connection.

129. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 128, wherein  
the protocol daemon program and the firewall program are resident on a single computer.

130. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 128, wherein  
the protocol daemon program and the first program are resident on a single computer.

131. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:  
means for providing a plurality of sockets, wherein  
each socket has an associated connection and an associated security token,  
each associated connection is inbound relative to a relay program, and  
the associated security token is provided by the associated connection;

means for receiving a first connection and a first security token;  
means for creating a socket associated with the first connection, wherein  
means for creating comprises means for associating the first security token with  
the first connection;  
means for comparing the first security token with the associated security tokens; and  
in response to said comparing,  
means for including the socket in the plurality of sockets, if none of the associated  
security tokens match the first security token, and  
means for coupling an endpoint of the first connection to an endpoint of the  
connection associated with the socket associated with the matching  
security token, if the first security token and a security token associated  
with one of the plurality of sockets match, wherein  
a security token is a password.

134. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 131 further comprising:  
in response to said comparing, if none of the associated security tokens match the first  
security token,  
means for disconnecting the first connection, upon a determination that the first  
connection is not to be associated with a socket.

135. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 131, wherein the means for coupling  
comprises:

means for relaying a data stream between the first connection and the connection  
associated with the socket.

136. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 131, wherein the means for coupling  
comprises:

means for creating a single connection comprising the first connection and the connection  
associated with the socket.

137. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 131 further comprising:  
means for decoupling the first connection and the connection associated with the socket.

138. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 137, wherein  
the means for decoupling is configured to decouple the first connection and the  
connection associated with the socket upon one of failure and disconnect of one  
of the first connection and the connection associated with the socket.

139. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 131, wherein  
the first connection is transmitted through a first firewall program.

140. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:  
means for creating a first connection from a first program to a relay program;  
the first connection is inbound to the relay program;  
means for receiving a first security token from the first program, wherein  
the first security token is a password;  
means for providing the first security token to the relay program;  
means for creating a socket associated with the first connection, wherein  
the means for creating comprises means for associating the first security token  
with the first connection;  
means for comparing the first security token with one or more security tokens associated  
with one or more corresponding connections, wherein  
each one of the one or more corresponding connections is inbound to the relay  
program; and  
in response to said comparing,  
means for coupling a second connection and the connection associated with the  
matching security token, if the first security token and a security token  
associated with a corresponding connection match, wherein the second  
connection is the corresponding connection, and  
means for creating a second connection to a relay program, if none of the  
associated security tokens match the first security token, wherein  
the second connection is inbound to the relay program, and  
upon successful creation of the second connection,  
means for including the second connection with said one or more  
corresponding connections, and

means for coupling the first connection and the second connection to one another.

141. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 140 further comprising means for transmitting the second connection through a firewall program.

142. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 140 further comprising: means for relaying a data stream between the first connection and the second connection.

144. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 140 further comprising: means for terminating the first connection and the second connection.

146. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 140, wherein the connection associated with the matching security token is initiated by a second program.

147. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 140, wherein the relay program further comprises:

means for relaying data between the second connection and the connection associated with the matching security token.

165. (Currently Amended) A computer program product encoded in a computer readable storage media, the computer program product comprising:

a first set of instructions, executable by a processor and configured to cause the processor to provide a plurality of sockets, wherein each socket has an associated connection and an associated security token, each associated connection is inbound relative to a relay program, and the associated security token is provided by the associated connection;

a second set of instructions, executable by the processor and configured to cause the processor to receive a first connection and a first security token at the relay program, wherein

the first connection is inbound relative to the relay program;

a third set of instructions, executable by the processor and configured to cause the processor to create a socket associated with the first connection, wherein the third set of instructions comprises

a first subset of instructions, executable by a processor and configured to cause the processor to associate the first security token with the first connection;

a fourth set of instructions, executable by the processor and configured to cause the processor to compare the first security token with the associated security tokens;

a fifth set of instructions, executable by the processor and configured to cause the processor to include the socket in the plurality of sockets, in response to said comparing, if none of the associated security tokens match the first security token;

and

a sixth set of instructions, executable by the processor and configured to cause the processor, in response to the fourth set of instructions, to couple an end point of the first connection and an end point of a connection associated with the socket associated with the matching security token to one another, wherein a security token is a password.

168. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 165 further comprising:

a seventh set of instructions, executable by the processor, responsive to said comparing, and configured to cause the processor to disconnect the first connection, if none of the associated security tokens match the first security token, and upon a determination that the first connection is not to be associated with a socket.

169. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 165 further comprising:

an seventh set of instructions, executable by the processor and configured to cause the processor to relay a data stream between the first connection and the connection associated with the socket.

170. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 165 further comprising:

a seventh set of instructions, executable by the processor and configured to cause the processor to create a single connection comprising the first connection and the connection associated with the socket.

171. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 165 further comprising:

a seventh set of instructions, executable by the processor and configured to cause the processor to decouple the first connection and the connection associated with the socket.

172. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 171 further comprising:

an eighth set of instructions, executable by the processor and configured to cause the processor to decouple the first connection and the connection associated with the socket upon one of failure and disconnect of one of the first connection and the connection associated with the socket.

173. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 165, wherein the first connection is transmitted through a first firewall program.

174. (Currently Amended) A computer program product encoded in a computer readable storage media, the computer program product comprising:

a first set of instructions, executable by a first processor and configured to cause the first processor to create a first connection from a first program to a relay program,

wherein

the first connection is inbound to the relay program;

a second set of instructions, executable by the first processor and configured to cause the first processor to receive a first security token from the first program to the relay program, wherein

the first security token is a password, and

said second set of instruction comprises

a first subset of instructions providing the first security token to the relay program;

a third set of instructions, executable by the first processor and configured to cause the first processor to create a socket associated with the first connection, wherein said third set of instructions comprises

a second subset of instructions, executable by the first processor and configured to cause the first processor to associate the first security token with the first connection;

a fourth set of instructions, executable by the first processor and configured to cause the first processor to compare the first security token with one or more security tokens associated with one or more corresponding connections;

a fifth set of instructions, executable by the first processor and configured to cause the first processor to create a second connection to a relay program;

a sixth set of instructions, executable by the first processor and configured to cause the first processor to provide the first security token to the relay program;

a seventh set of instructions, executable by the first processor and configured to cause the first processor to couple the first connection to the second connection upon successful creation of the second connection;

an eighth set of instructions, executable by a second processor, responsive to said comparing, and configured to cause the second processor to couple the second connection to the connection associated with the matching security token if the first security token and a security token associated with a corresponding connection match; and

a ninth set of instructions, executable by the second processor, responsive to said comparing, and configured to cause the second processor to include the second

connection with said one or more corresponding connections if none of the associated security tokens match the first security token.

175. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 174, wherein the second connection is transmitted through a firewall program.

176. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 174 further comprising:

a tenth set of instructions, executable by the first processor and configured to cause the first processor to relay a data stream between the first connection and the second connection.

178. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 174 further comprising:

a tenth set of instructions, executable by the first processor and configured to cause the first processor to terminate the first connection and the second connection.

180. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 174, wherein the connection associated with the matching security token is initiated by a second program.

181. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 174, wherein the relay program further comprises:

a subset of instructions, executable by the second processor, configured to cause the second processor to relay data between the second connection and the connection associated with the matching security token.